



WELCOME TO THE

# BAPTISM



ST. JOHN BREBEUF  
CHURCH IN NILES, IL



**The excerpts of this booklet were taken  
from the book “*Chrzest naszego dziecka*”  
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Stanisława BM Archidiecezji Krakowskiej  
(*Archdiocese of Cracow*) -  
trans. Fr. Sebastian Zebrowski**



**DEAR PARENTS,**

ON BEHALF OF THE ST. JOHN BREBEUF PARISH COMMUNITY, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU AS YOU CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF YOUR CHILD AND PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY BAPTISM. IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT MOMENT FOR THE WHOLE PARISH COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE CHILD'S BAPTISM.

WHOLE CHURCH REJOICES WHEN NEW PERSON IS REBORN IN CHRIST. HOWEVER, SUCH AN OCCASION ALSO REQUIRES SOLID PREPARATION. THE FOLLOWING BOOKLET IS SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU IN THAT PROCESS AND WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE CELEBRATION OF THE BAPTISM IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY.

YOU, AS PARENTS OF THE NEWBORN CHILD TAKE UPON YOURSELVES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RAISING HIM/HER IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION AND FAITH. WE, AS ST. JOHN BREBEUF PARISH, WOULD BE HAPPY AND PRIVILEGED TO ASSIST YOU IN SUCH A PROCESS BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE WHEN YOUR CHILD PREPARES FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, RECONCILIATION, AND CONFIRMATION. OUR PARISH OFFERS GREAT CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN OUR ST. JOHN BREBEUF SCHOOL (FROM THE EARLY PRE-K EDUCATION) AND IN OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM. DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING AND THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY.

GOD BLESS YOU,

**FR. JASON TORBA  
PASTOR**



# St. John Brebeuf Parish

## Baptism Registrations

Class date: \_\_\_\_\_



**DATE OF BAPTISM:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Private Baptism requests- Parishioners only – Officiant will be FR/Dcn: \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL NAME OF CHILD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PLACE/CITY OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIBLINGS & AGES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS INFORMATION:** Parents requesting baptism should be married in the church unless a serious impediment exists i.e., prior marriage. Parents of different faith traditions should be in agreement/consent to raising the child Roman Catholic. Consult with clergy for specific questions.

**FATHER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RELIGION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CATHOLIC** \_\_\_\_\_ **OTHER** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RELIGION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CATHOLIC** \_\_\_\_\_ **OTHER** \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden name

**PARENTS MARITAL STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CATHOLIC MARRIAGE** \_\_\_\_\_ **CIVIL/COURT ONLY** \_\_\_\_\_ **NOT MARRIED**

**DATE OF MARRIAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PARISH/CHURCH** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY, ST. ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Registered parishioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

### GODPARENTS INFORMATION:

Catholic Godparents need to fulfill these requirements: **be least 16 years old, received the Sacrament of Confirmation, be either single or living in a sacramental marriage (married in the Church, not just in the court)**. Prospective godparents need to provide a **letter of good standing from their parish** (ask your pastor, highlighting that it is for an approval of being a godparent - he will know what to do, it's a standard letter issued by parishes) and bring it to the parish office.

Members of other Christian Denominations or Catholics who do not fulfill the requirements may act ONLY as a Christian witness, however at least one Godparent that fulfills requirements is necessary. Parents of the child cannot be his/her godparents.



**GODMOTHER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MARITAL STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SINGLE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MARRIED –CHURCH** \_\_\_\_\_ **DIVORCED**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC WHO RECEIVED SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**

**GODFATHER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MARITAL STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SINGLE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MARRIED –CHURCH** \_\_\_\_\_ **DIVORCED**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC WHO RECEIVED SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**

**CHRISTIAN WITNESS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAITH** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **WILL ATTEND BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS** \_\_\_\_\_ **(DATE)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ALREADY ATTENDED SJB CLASS WITHIN 3 YEARS** (If class at other church –need letter. \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION TAKEN BY** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**OFFICE USE ONLY** \_\_\_\_\_ **Typed card** \_\_\_\_\_ **Typed Certificate** \_\_\_\_\_ **Entered into Register**

**Class attended date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Requirements



- Child's Birth Certificate and filled registration form.
- Proof of attendance of the pre-baptismal classes (attended, if possible, by both parents and godparents). If the classes were attended in different parish, the letter of confirmation must be provided. Only parents who baptized the child within the last 3 years at St. John Brebeuf are excused. The classes at St. John Brebeuf are held once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.
- Parents of the child should be married in the Catholic Church.
- Godparents must meet the criteria required by the Church that is they are practicing Catholics who received Confirmation and their lifestyle is in compliance with the Catholic teaching.
- Parents can purchase their own white garment and baptismal candle. The church can provide a candle if necessary. The child should wear the white clothes for the liturgy of the baptism.
- Any extraordinary requests must be consulted and discussed with the pastor.
- Parishioners are asked for \$100 donation to the church. Non-parishioners are asked for \$150 donation to the church.



# What is Holy Baptism?



Baptism is one of the holy sacraments in which, by pouring water and saying the words: "N., I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit", a person receives many graces: "forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth to a new life, through which a person becomes an adopted son of the Father, a member of Christ, a temple of the Holy Spirit. By receiving this sacrament, the baptized person is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and becomes a sharer in the priesthood of Christ" (CCC 1279). And what is a sacrament? A sacrament is a visible sign signifying invisible graces that God grants to man. Christ instituted the sacraments and entrusted them to the Church. Through these rites God's life is communicated to us visible. The sacraments bring fruit in those who receive them with appropriate openness, faith, and humility.

In addition to baptism, the holy sacraments are: Confirmation, the Eucharist (the Holy Sacrament), Penance (holy confession), Anointing of the Sick, Priesthood (Holy Orders), and Marriage. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "from the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, because it is a grace and a gift of God that does not assume human merits" (CCC 1282). Baptism should not be denied to children, but in order to fulfill the whole truth of the sacrament, they must be brought up in the faith in which they were baptized.



## Choosing a name for your baby



A name defines a person, who he is, what his character traits are, and it influences his entire life. The Gospel describes the scene of the naming: "And he brought him to Jesus. And Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, the son of John; your name will be Cephas, that is, Peter" (John 1:42).

As parents, you choose your child's name. You have the right to do so because you are the ones who gave life to the child and will raise it. This name will be your child's hallmark.

You will pronounce them warmly and seriously, with tenderness and care. By repeating the name, you will have an influence on your child. Therefore, it is extremely important that it is a beautiful, not strange name.

When choosing one, try to refer to the book of names to find out what it means; or even better, to the book of the lives of saints to learn the history and character traits of the person bearing the name you choose. The saint or blessed will become the patron saint of your child at Baptism. From now on he will be a role model and guardian for him.

It is also worth asking your immediate family about their feelings about the chosen name. Perhaps there are some traditions in your family when it comes to choosing names.





## Choosing godparents



According to the ancient custom of the Church, an adult cannot be admitted to baptism without a godparent. He is supposed to help the godchild and take care of his upbringing in the faith and Christian life.

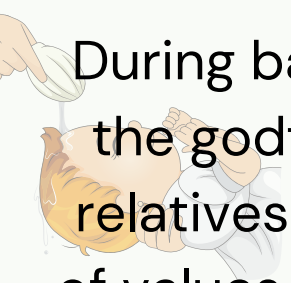
Similarly, when a child is baptized, at least one godparent must be present as a representative of both the baptized person's family and the Church. In our tradition, parents ask godparents to take up this task. Since godparents represent the Church community, they should be mature, practicing Catholics (baptized, confirmed and receiving Holy Communion). They cannot live in concubinage or in a non-sacramental relationship.

It is worth emphasizing that godparents should often pray for their godchild and receive Holy Communion for him or her. They take care of the child's spiritual development, support parents in his upbringing, and are interested in the child's catechesis and religious life. A very valuable sign of memory is the Holy Mass offered for the child on his name day.

Godparents prepare for their ministry by participating in pre-baptismal catechesis and holy confession. If they live outside the parish where the baptism will take place, they should provide an appropriate certificate from their parish priest that they can be godparents.







During baptism, the godmother holds a white garment, and the godfather holds a candle. Godparents should be your relatives and good friends. What is important is their world of values and what example they will set for your child. They are your child's first teachers after you.

## **In the parish office**

Basically, baptism should take place on Sunday, in front of the parish community gathered for Holy Mass (however, our parish also allows baptisms on Saturday). Sunday is the commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus, and baptism involves your child in this mystery. The faithful gathered at Holy Mass recall the truth about the universal Church, which accepts a new member into its community. The child should be baptized in the first months of his life. The desire to have your child baptized should be reported to the parish office. The child will then be recorded in the Baptism Book. The following data and documents are needed:

- child's birth certificate;
- personal details of the child's parents (name, place of birth, parents' names together with the mother's maiden name (it is best to have both ID cards with you);
- names, surnames of godparents.

Personal data is provided for church use only. Parents bring a candle and a white robe for the day of baptism (however, the church may provide a small baptismal candle).





## **Preparation of parents for the baptism of their child**

You will be very busy with your baby in the first weeks of his life. In addition, there will be choosing a name, asking godparents, visiting the parish office, and preparing a home celebration. It is easy to be tempted to ignore your spiritual preparation for this celebration. We ask you to think about what will happen to your child. In your spiritual preparation, pay attention to three elements:

- pre-baptismal catechesis (obligatory participation – conducted every fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM)
- holy confession;
- praying together as a family.






## Symbolism of baptismal signs

To understand and experience well and deeply your child's baptism, let's pay attention to the signs that accompany the administration of this sacrament.

Water – is the main sign of baptism. It was created by God when the world was created. Thanks to water, life can exist and develop. Thanks to baptismal water, a new, supernatural life will appear in your child's soul – sanctifying grace. Baptismal water reminds:

- ◆ the flood waters that destroyed sinful humanity. Holy Baptism removes original sin and, in the case of adult baptism, all other sins previously committed. the waters of the Red Sea that saved the Chosen People from captivity. Baptism, however, saves your child from Satan's slavery.
- ◆ baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. Then people learned that Jesus was the beloved Son of God. Thanks to the grace of baptism, your child becomes a beloved child of God.
- ◆ water that flowed from the pierced side of Christ. Pointing to the suffering of Lord Jesus, it explains why baptismal water is a sign of God's great grace.





*Sign of the cross* – during baptism, the celebrant, parents and godparents mark the child's forehead with a cross (with the thumb of their right hand). The sign of the cross is a declaration of faith in the Holy Trinity. This sign also means that the child belongs to Jesus, who now offers him his help and grace to face and overcome all the difficulties of life.

Holy chrism – it is olive oil mixed with balsam. The oil prepared in this way is blessed by the bishop during Holy Week in the cathedral. It is taken from the cathedral, i.e. the bishop's church, by parish representatives. The prayer that the celebrant will say while anointing your child's forehead with chrism is as follows:

*+ Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, unto eternal life. Amen.*

Anointing the child's forehead with holy chrism means the outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The child is marked with the indelible mark of belonging to God. He become His child. This gesture also reminds us of the child's inclusion in the Church and his priestly dignity (he has the right to receive subsequent sacraments), of the prophetic task (prayer and confession of faith), and of the royal mission (the call to do good and fight evil).





*White garment*– the meaning of this sign is explained by the words of the celebrant:

*N. you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring it unstained into eternal life. This garment is a sign of innocence, purity, and new life.*

You can keep it as a token of remembrance.

**Baptismal candle** – This candle is lit during baptism from a large candle called a paschal candle. Just as the fire of the Paschal candle is passed on to the candle, the life of Christ is passed on to your child. The candle flame symbolizes the flame of faith that will burn in your child's life

*Baptismal candle* – symbolizes Christ – the Light of the world.





## ***Baby baptism rites***

### *Rite of welcoming children*

Usually, parents with their child and godparents are asked to sit in the first pews in front of the altar. After the beginning of liturgy, the celebrant welcomes everyone and the rite of acceptance of the child begins:

Celebrant: *Dear parents, What name do you give (or: have you given) your child?*

Parents: *NN. (the child's name or both names should be stated loudly and clearly; the parents of each child respond in turns).*

Celebrant: *What do you ask of God's Church for N.?*

Parents: *For baptism (all parents and godparents together).*

Celebrant: *In asking for Baptism for your children, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising them in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, they may love the Lord and their neighbor as Christ has taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?*

Parents: *We do*





Celebrant also addresses the godparents who are responsible for the child.

Celebrant: *Are you ready to help the parents of these children in their duty?*

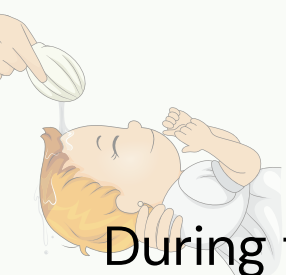
Godparents: *We are.*

Celebrant: *N. the Church of God receives you with great joy. In her name I sign you with the Sign of the Cross of Christ our Savior; then, after me, your parents (and godparents) will do the same.*

Celebrant, parents and godparents mark a cross on the child's forehead with the thumb of their right hand. In this way, the child is accepted into the Church community.







## *Liturgy of the Word of God*

During this part of the baptismal rite, the Word of God is read and the celebrant delivers a homily. In this way, the Church wants to encourage the faithful to reflect on the mystery of baptism. The Liturgy of the Word ends with a general prayer, a short litany to the saints who will be the patrons of baptized children and a prayer to drive away the evil spirit, i.e. exorcism. This intercession of the Church is expressed externally through the gesture of placing the celebrant's hand on the child's head (or anointing with the Oil of Catechumens).

## *Liturgy of the sacrament of baptism*

It begins with the blessing of baptismal water. If baptismal water blessed on the Easter Vigil is available, then instead of consecration, a short thanksgiving for this water takes place. Then, the people gathered in the church renounce evil and confess their faith. Consider these words to live the rite of baptism of your child more consciously.

Celebrant: *Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?*

Parents and godparents: *I do*

Celebrant: *Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?*

Parents and godparents: *I do.*





Celebrant: *Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?*

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: *Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?*

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?*

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?*

Parents and godparents: *We do.*

Celebrant: *This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord. Then, the family together with the child and godparents approach the celebrant.*

The celebrant asks for the name the child once again. Then the most important part of the baptism rites begins.

Celebrant: *Is it your will, therefore, that N. should receive Baptism in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?*

Parents and godparents: *Yes.*





Celebrant: *N., I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER  
AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*

(at the same time he pours water over the child's head  
three times).

After the baptism of all children, explanatory rites follow  
(that further explain the greatness of the graces received):

#### ◆ Anointing with Holy Chrism

The celebrant approaches the child with a vessel containing holy chrism, moistens the thumb of his right hand with this holy oil and anoints the child's forehead.

#### ◆ Putting on a white garment

Celebrant encourages you to put a white garment on your child. This is the most often done by the godmother.

#### ◆ Handing over the lighted candle

The celebrant addresses the faithful: "*Receive the light of Christ.*" Then the child's father or godfather approaches the lighted Paschal candle, standing on a candlestick or held by the celebrant, and lights the child's candle.





At the end of the Liturgy, the celebrant gives a special blessing to the newly baptized child and its parents.

*– The Lord God Almighty, through his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, brings joy to Christian mothers as the hope of eternal life shines forth upon their children. May he graciously bless the mothers of these children, so that, as they now give thanks for the gift of their children, they may always remain united with them in thanksgiving, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen*

*– May the Lord God Almighty, the giver of life both in heaven and on earth, bless the fathers of these children, so that, together with their wives, they may, by word and example, prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their children, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen*

*– May the Lord God Almighty, who by water and the Holy Spirit has given us new birth into eternal life, abundantly bless his faithful here present, that always and everywhere they may be active members of his people; and may he bestow his peace on all who are here, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen*

After the liturgy, many parents with their baptized child go before the image of Our Lady to entrust their child to Her care. You can also take a moment to take a commemorative photo with your family.

